

Argument

In regard to claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits that Moriyama fails to teach a method or device “wherein the controller ***stops the play back of the image*** information ***and reports the play back control state***, when the detected control information is information to stop the play back”, as recited.

In particular, as disclosed and claimed, in accordance with the present invention, when the controller detects control information on the information medium indicating that the play back of the information medium should be “stopped”, the controller stops the play back and communicates, i.e., “reports”, e.g., to a user of the reproducing device, the condition of the play back operation, i.e., “reports the play back control state”. For example, as disclosed in the present application, e.g., on page 21, line 21 through page 22, line 17, in connection with FIGs. 3 and 5(c), during the play back of a DVD, when the controller detects control information on the DVD instructing the controller to halt the play back of the DVD, i.e., “stop command data”, the controller stops the play back operation and superimposes, i.e., “reports”, a message, such as “DVD/STOPPED” on the display device indicating the stopped state of the play back operation. Further, as disclosed at page 26, line 23 through page 27, line 5, the reporting function is not limited to a visual display. As indicated, the “report” function can also be carried out by audibly sounding a particular sound from a speaker, thus indicating to the driver that the DVD play back operation has stopped.

In contrast, with respect to Moriyama, as cited by the Examiner, “a stop code recorded in the vertical blanking period is decoded in the player and a still image is reproduced.” (Col. 27, lines 24-27). Decoding a stop code and displaying a “still image” in response thereto, as

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appl. No. 09/549,592

disclosed in Moriyama, however, is not the same as stopping the play back and reporting the “play back control state”, as claimed. Specifically, in accordance with the claimed invention, when the play back operation is stopped, the “stopped” condition is reported to the user, either by a displayed message, such as shown in FIG. 5(c), or by an audible sound. In Moriyama, when a stop code is detected, a “still image” is displayed and no disclosure within Moriyama would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to believe that the still image displayed indicates the state of the play back function.

Further, the definition of “characters” in Moriyama, for example as recited at column 6, line 21, is ambiguous, and moreover, there is no indication or suggestion that the “characters” report the play back state. A skilled artisan simply would not have interpreted the “characters” in Moriyama as reporting the play back control state as required by the claims.

Accordingly, at least because Moriyama fails to teach, or even suggest, the requirement of claim 2 where the “play back control state” is reported, Moriyama does not anticipate claim 2.

For similar reasons to those above in regard to claim 2, Applicant submits that Moriyama also does not anticipate either of claims 3 or 4. That is, Moriyama does not teach or suggest the requirement where a controller “reports the play back control state”, as claimed.

Further, with respect to claim 3, contrary to the Examiner, Applicant submits that Moriyama does not teach a controller “provided with a memory for previously storing report data to report the play back control state, and to report according to the report data corresponding to the control information”, as recited. The passage in Moriyama referenced by the Examiner for teaching this requirement states, “[t]he SWS decoder includes a control code buffer memory 20

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/549,592

for storing control codes in a prior frame. The control codes are read out of the control code buffer memory 20 and decoded, followed by various steps of processing.” The control codes stored in the buffer memory in Moriyama, however, are entirely different than the claimed “report data” and, moreover, Moriyama nowhere discloses that the “steps of processing” includes “reporting the play back control state” as required by the claim. Specifically, as disclosed in Moriyama, for example, at FIG. 31, the disclosed control codes (e.g., AN, AS, AM, etc.), when decoded, include functions such as playing normal sound with a image, sound output with a still image and audio muting, etc. Nowhere in Moriyama, and the Examiner points to no location, is it disclosed that the control codes include either the function or the data for reporting the condition of the play back operation, i.e., the “play back control state”.

For this additional reason, claim 3 is not anticipated by Moriyama and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5-7 each depends from one of claims 2, 3 or 4. Accordingly, by virtue of their respective dependencies, claims 5-7 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as discussed above for claims 2, 3 and 4.

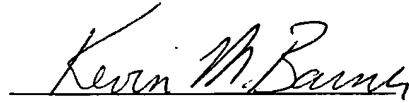
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims 2-7, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/549,592

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin M. Barner
Registration No. 46,075

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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